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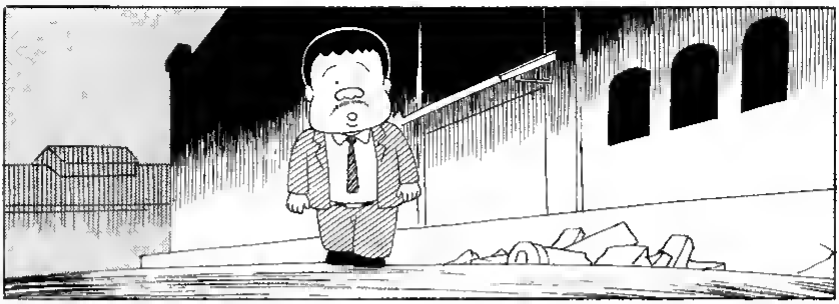
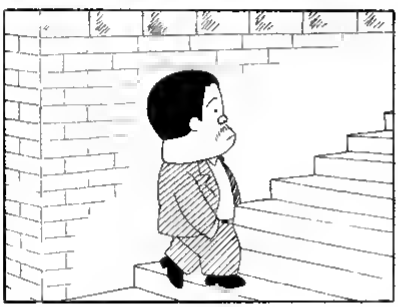
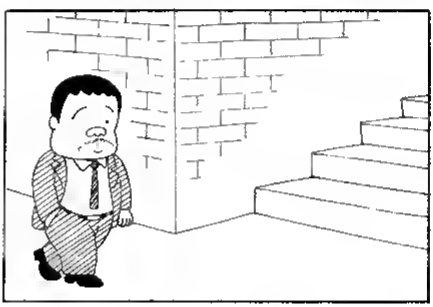
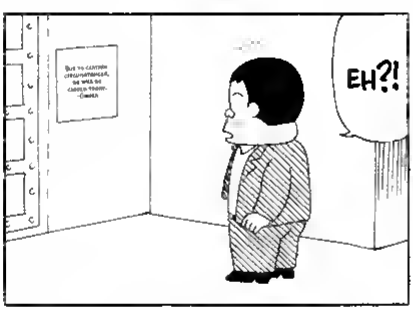
PART 4

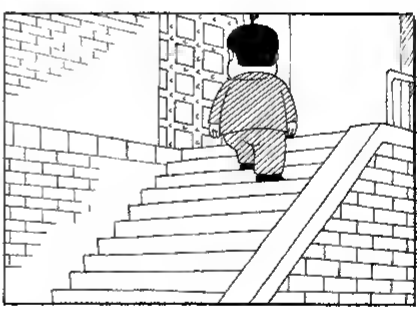
Megane-san

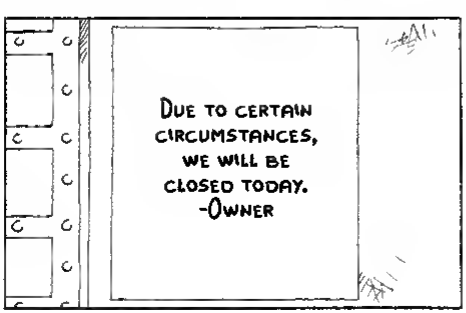


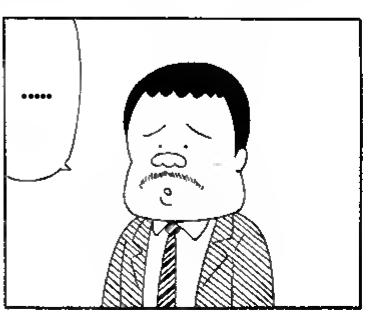





EH?!




DUE TO CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE WILL BE CLOSED TODAY. -OWNER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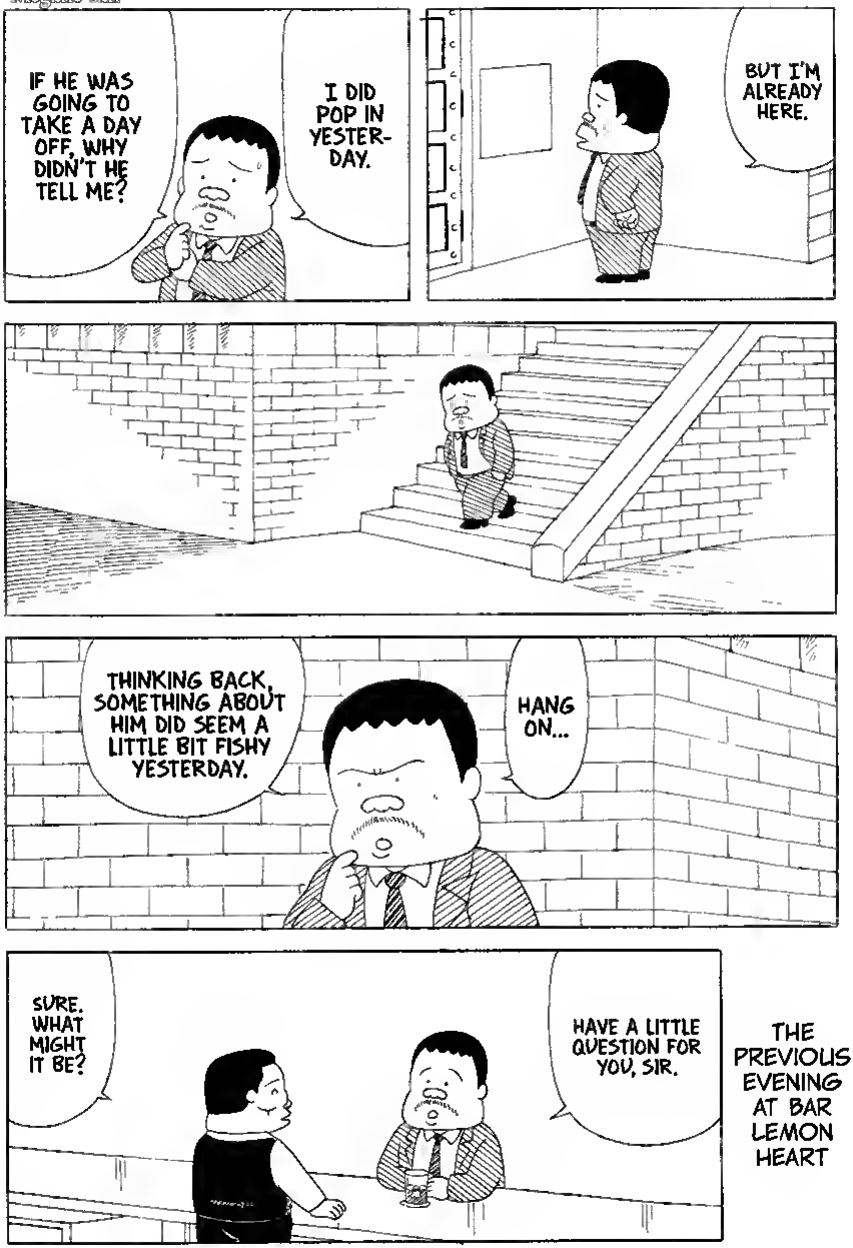
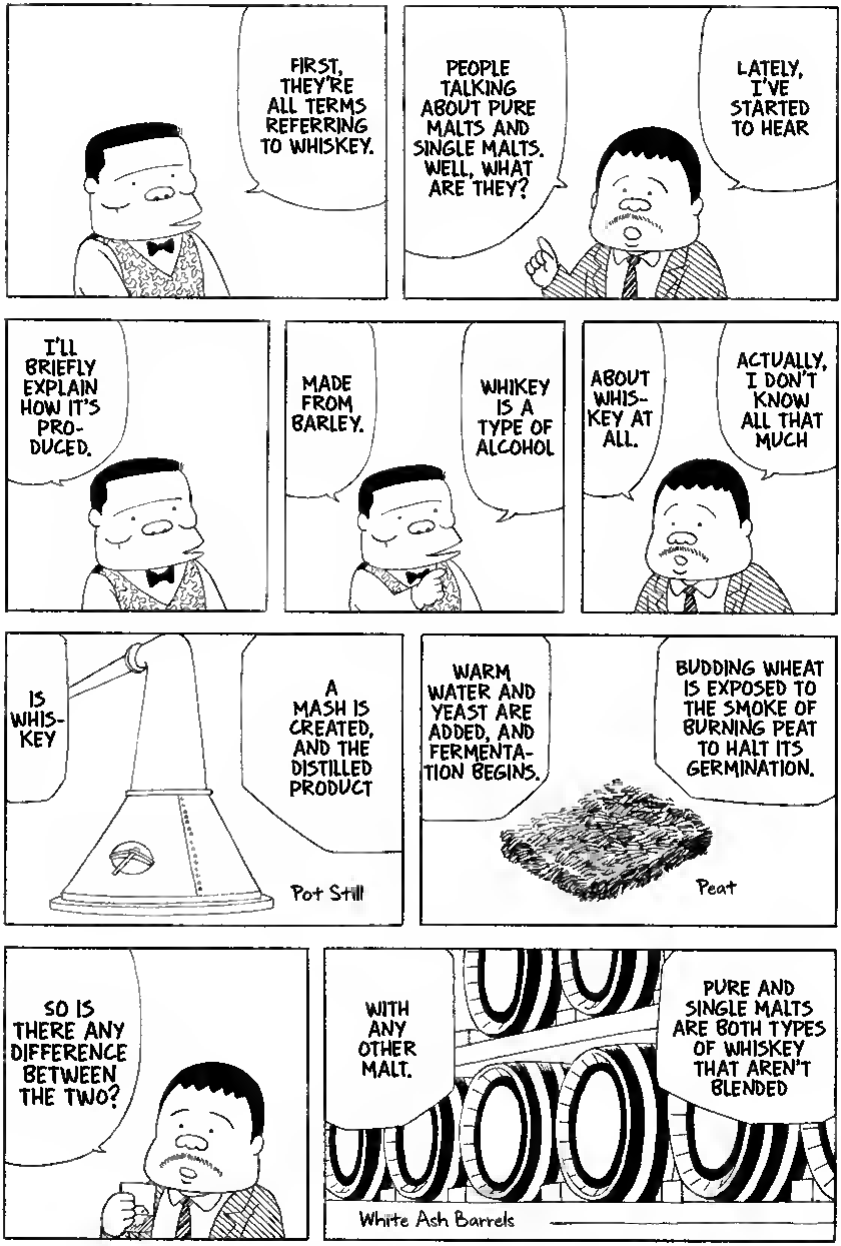
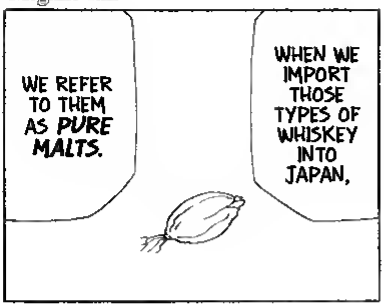
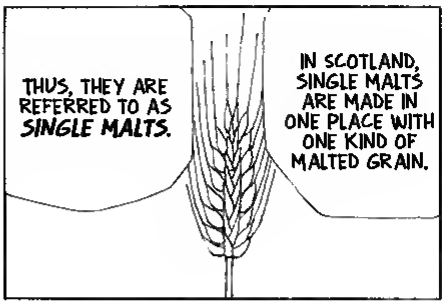
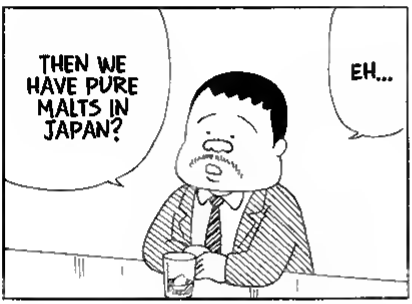

IF HE WAS GOING TO TAKE A DAY OFF, WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ME?
I DID POP IN YESTERDAY.
BUT I'M ALREADY HERE.
THINKING BACK, SOMETHING ABOUT HIM DID SEEM A LITTLE BIT FISHY YESTERDAY.
HANG ON...
SURE. WHAT MIGHT IT BE?
HAVE A LITTLE QUESTION FOR YOU, SIR.

THE PREVIOUS EVENING AT BAR LEMON HEART


FIRST, THEY'RE ALL TERMS REFERRING TO WHISKEY.
PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT PURE MALTS AND SINGLE MALTS. WELL, WHAT ARE THEY?
LATELY, I'VE STARTED TO HEAR
I'LL BRIEFLY EXPLAIN HOW IT'S PRO-DUCED.
MADE FROM BARLEY.
WHIKEY IS A TYPE OF ALCOHOL
ABOUT WHIS-KEY AT ALL.
ACTUALLY, I DON'T KNOW ALL THAT MUCH
IS WHIS-KEY
A MASH IS CREATED, AND THE DISTILLED PRODUCT
Pot Still
WARM WATER AND YEAST ARE ADDED, AND FERMENTA-TION BEGINS.
BUDDING WHEAT IS EXPOSED TO THE SMOKE OF BURNING PEAT TO HALT ITS GERMINATION.
Peat
SO IS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO?
WITH ANY OTHER MALT.
PURE AND SINGLE MALTS ARE BOTH TYPES OF WHISKEY THAT AREN'T BLENDED
White Ash Barrels

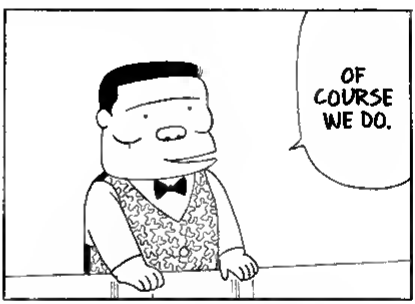

WE REFER TO THEM AS *PURE MALTS*.
WHEN WE IMPORT THOSE TYPES OF WHISKEY INTO JAPAN,


THUS, THEY ARE REFERRED TO AS *SINGLE MALTS*.
IN SCOTLAND, SINGLE MALTS ARE MADE IN ONE PLACE WITH ONE KIND OF MALTED GRAIN.

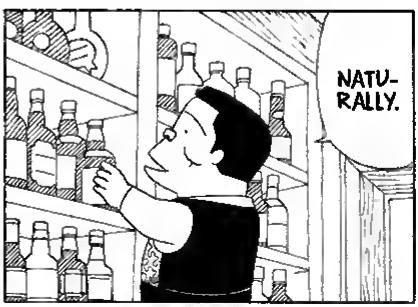

THEN WE HAVE PURE MALTS IN JAPAN?
EH...

THUS, THERE ISN'T MUCH EFFECTIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PURE MALTS AND SINGLE MALTS.

YOU GOTTA HAVE ONE HERE, RIGHT?
I'D REALLY LIKE TO TRY ONE OUT!


OF COURSE WE DO.

WHEN YOU SPEAK OF JAPANESE PURE MALT WHISKEY...

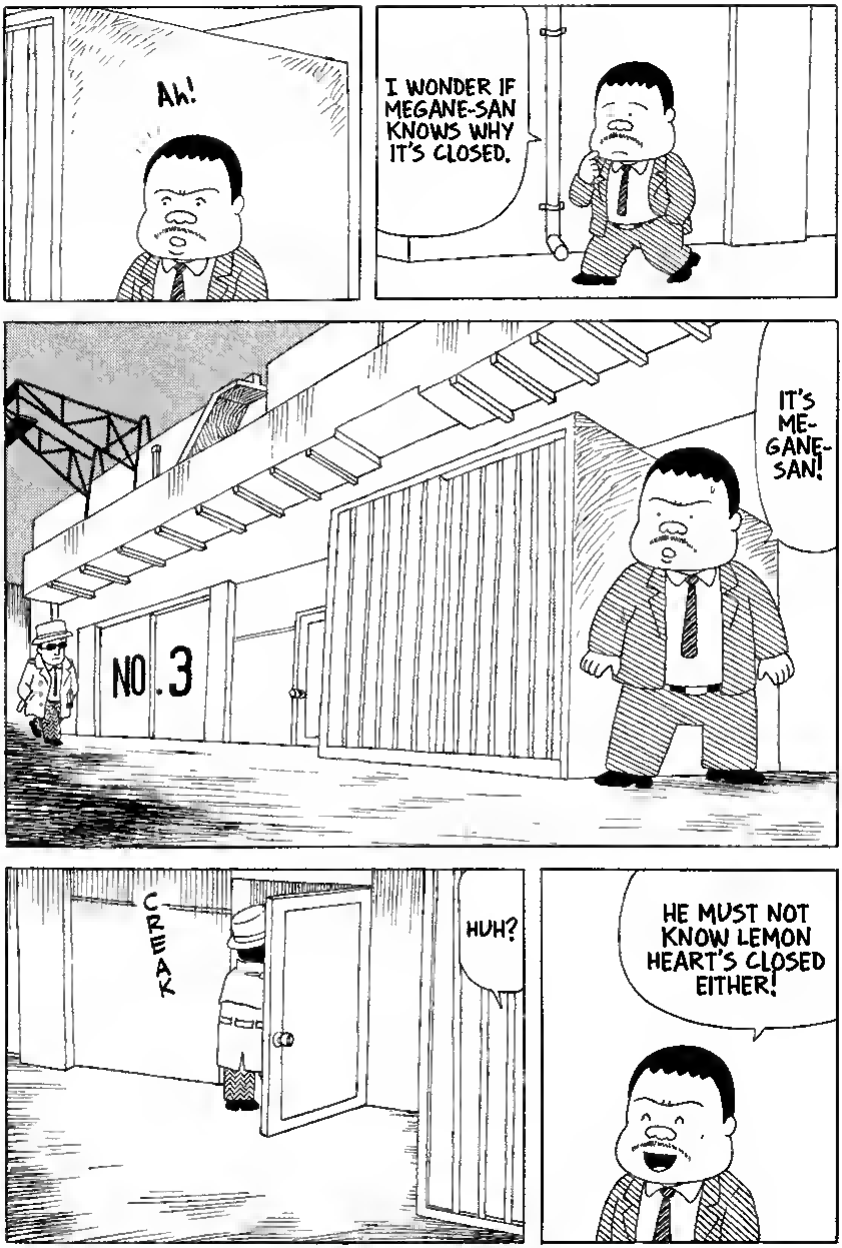

NATU-RALLY.

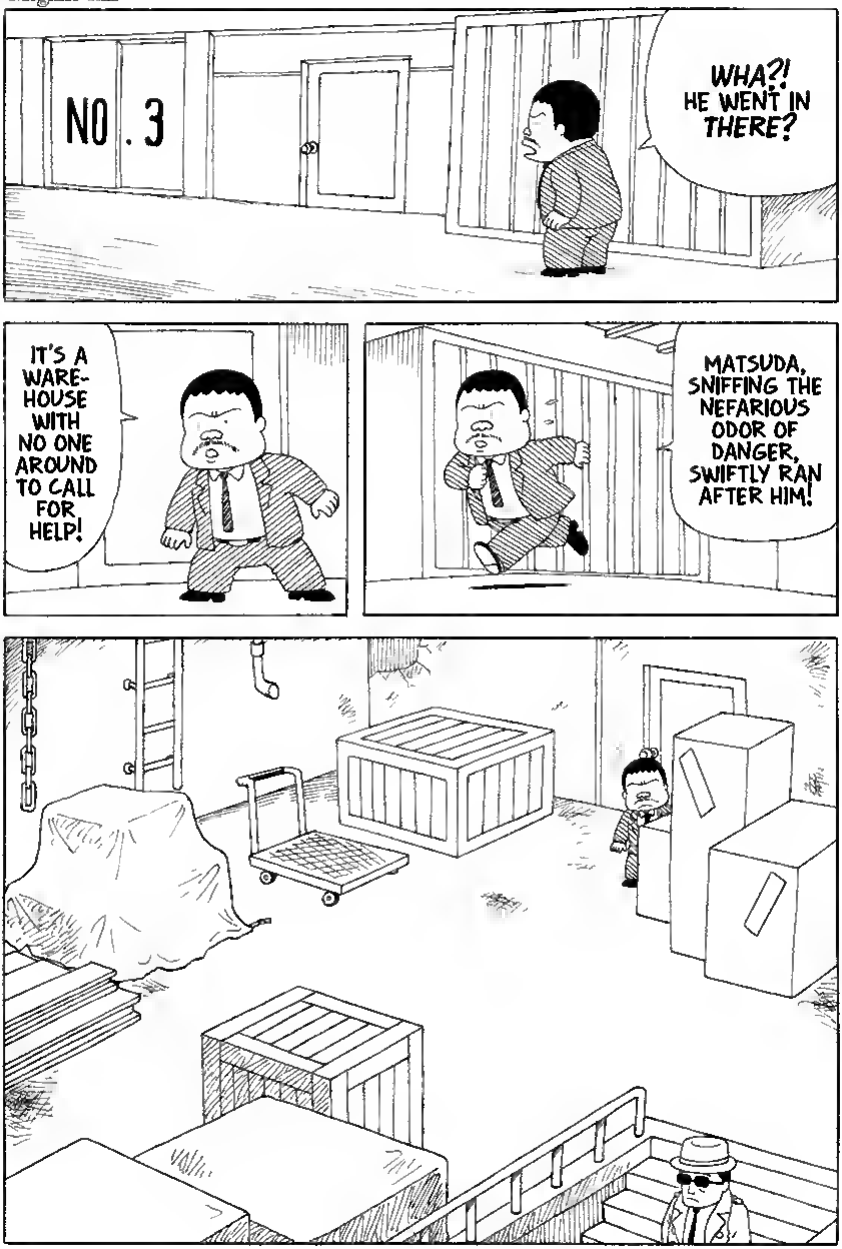
YOU WANT THIS.
SUNTORY PURE MALT WHISKY
Since 1899
SUNTORY PURE MALT WHISKY
山崎

OKAY.
WE'LL HAVE YOU TRY SOME ON THE ROCKS.
HOW IS IT?
HMM.
GLUG...
WOBBLE
I CAN'T TELL.
THAT NICE AROMA KEEPS ON LINGERING, RIGHT?
WELL, EVEN AFTER YOU'VE FINISHED DRINKING,
ALCOHOL ALL TASTES THE SAME TO ME.

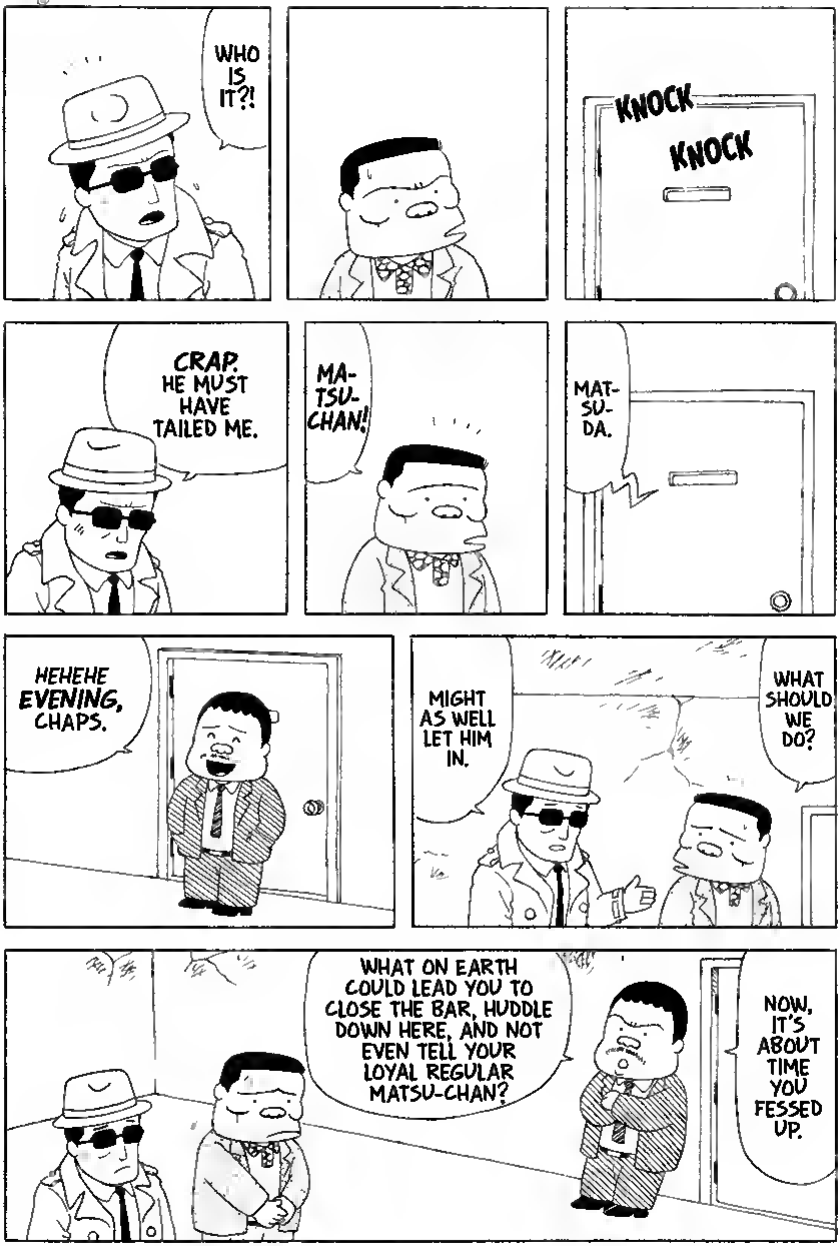
EVEN IF YOU TELL ME IT HAS FLAVOR...
YEAH, BUT
AMONG THE MANY TYPES OF LIGHT WHISKEY, THAT ONE'S SAID TO BE PARTICULARLY DISTINCT!
THAT'S ITS FLAVOR!
AND THIS IS A PURE MALT, HUH?
HMM.
QUITE ENJOY THAT SUNTORY YAMAZAKI WHISKEY.
IN FACT, I, TOO,
MATSUDA-SAN, YOU KNOW, I...
I GUESS I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY TASTE, HUH?
.....
EH? HUH? WHAT'S UP?

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE BEATING AROUND THE BUSH?
WHAT'S UP, SIR?
NAH! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
YEAH, RIGHT THEN.
RE-TURN-ING TO THE PRE-SENT
I'M SORRY!
NO, NO! IT'S NOTH-ING!
WHY IT'S CLOSED TODAY!
HE MUST'VE BEEN ABOUT TO TELL ME
NOW, I DIDN'T PURSUE THE MATTER ANY FURTHER, EITHER, BUT...
BUT THEN STOP-PED SHORT.
HE WAS GOING TO SAY SOME-THING
IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE THE BLOOD OF THIS FREELANCE WRITER BOIL!
WHAT'S BEHIND IT ALL?!
AND DIDN'T TELL ME, A DE-VOTED REGU-LAR?
HE KNEW HE WAS GOING TO CLOSE


Ah!
I WONDER IF MEGANE-SAN KNOWS WHY IT'S CLOSED.
NO.3
IT'S MEGANE-SAN!
CREAK
HUH?
HE MUST NOT KNOW LEMON HEART'S CLOSED EITHER!


NO. 3
WHA?! HE WENT IN THERE?
IT'S A WARE-HOUSE WITH NO ONE AROUND TO CALL FOR HELP!
MATSUDA, SNIFFING THE NEFARIOUS ODOR OF DANGER, SWIFTLY RAN AFTER HIM!

CREAK
KNOCK KNOCK
IT'S ME.
SLAM
YEAH.
DID YOU GET IT?
WELL, IT WAS SITTING IN AN OAK BARREL FOR 40 YEARS.
INCREDIBLE. IT'S WAY PAST AMBER. NEARLY BLACK.
THERE IT IS.


WHO IS IT?!
KNOCK KNOCK
CRAP. HE MUST HAVE TAILED ME.
MA-TSU-CHAN!
MAT-SU-DA.
HEHEHE EVENING, CHAPS.
MIGHT AS WELL LET HIM IN.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WHAT ON EARTH COULD LEAD YOU TO CLOSE THE BAR, HUDDLE DOWN HERE, AND NOT EVEN TELL YOUR LOYAL REGULAR MATSU-CHAN?
NOW, IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU FESSED UP.

AND HE ONLY JUST NOW MANAGED TO OBTAIN IT.
TRYING TO GET HIS HANDS ON WHAT YOU SEE RIGHT HERE.
WELL, THE OWNER'S BEEN RUNNING AROUND ALL DAY LONG
IT'S WHIS-KEY, MAN.
IS IT DRU-GS?
THIS WHISKEY WAS CAREFULLY CARRIED ALL THE WAY FROM SCOTLAND, AND WHAT YOU SEE RIGHT HERE IS ALL THAT HE COULD GET.
FOR SOME BOOZE?
HE'S BEEN RUNNING AROUND ALL DAY
NOPE.
YOU HAVE HEARD OF BALLANTINE'S 30-YEAR WHISKEY, YES?

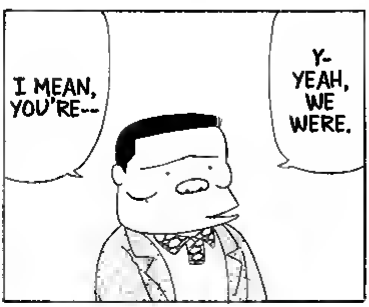
I MENTIONED SINGLE MALTS AND BLENDS, RIGHT?
WHEN I SPOKE TO YOU ABOUT WHISKEY YESTERDAY,

30
Ballantine's
VERY OLD
SCOTCH WHISKY
30 YEARS OLD

THAT IS, IT'S A BLEND OF MALTS.
THE BALLATINE'S 30-YEAR IS A BLENDED WHISKEY.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN EVER REALLY GET YOUR HANDS ON.

MEANING IT WAS DRAINED DIRECTLY FROM THE CASK.
THIS RIGHT HERE IS WHAT YOU HAVE BEFORE IT'S BLENDED.


I MEAN, YOU'RE--
Y-YEAH, WE WERE.

KEEPING GOOD OLD MATSU-CHAN IN THE DARK, HUH?
I SEE HOW IT IS. AND YOU TWO WERE JUST GOING TO DRINK IT DOWN HERE IN SECRET, HUH?

FINE. LET'S SPLIT IT THREE WAYS.
BUT DRINKING SUCH AMAZING ALCOHOL ALL BY YOURSELVES IS DOWNRIGHT HEARTLESS!
I'M WHAT? YOU WERE GONNA SAY I DON'T HAVE ANY TASTE, RIGHT?
PFTEH!
GLUG
THIS IS ALL YOU GET.
WH- WHAT A WASTE!
SEE? THAT'S WHY WE DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE YOU ANY.
IT'S CRAZY STRONG.
YUCK! WHAT THE HECK IS THIS STUFF?

♡ *PART* 4 END

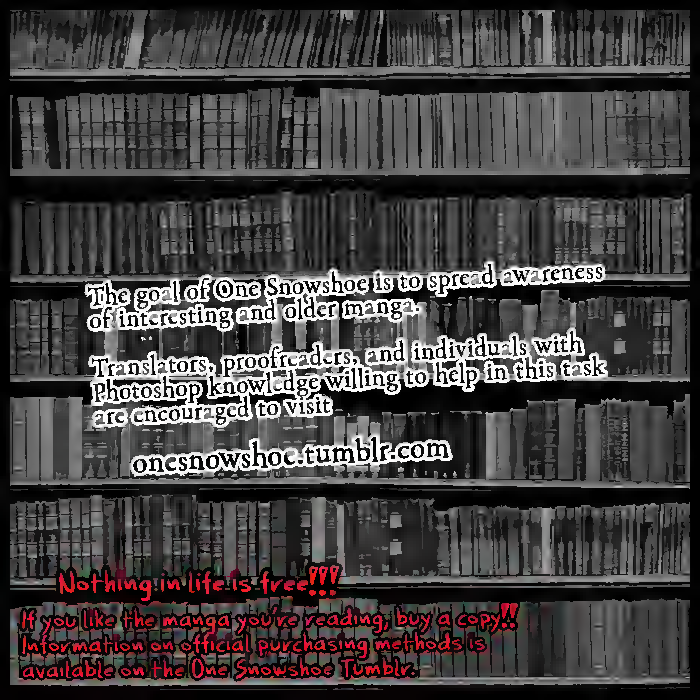
TRANSLATION NOTES:

Regarding single, pure, and blended whiskey....

Regular whiskey drinkers may find this chapter rather irksome to read because the information is factually inaccurate... from a Western perspective and in light of Western whiskey vocabulary.

In the West, "single malt whiskey" refers to whiskey made exclusively from malted barley from ONE and only one distillery. In the West, "pure malt whiskey" was a name formerly applied to BLENDED or "vatted" whiskeys. Enough confusion arose from these labeling practices that Scotland enacted regulations in the 2000's that effectively curtailed the use of "pure malt," a practice which Americans and others have followed.

This chapter of Bar Lemon Heart was released in Japan in the 1980's. In Japan, "pure malt" and "single malt" have continued to refer to non-blended whiskeys. Further, Suntory to this day markets its Yamazaki whiskey as a "pure malt."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